

REMARKS

The specification and drawing figure 1A are amended to correct minor reference numeral errors and inconsistencies.

The Examiner's recognition of Applicant's invention by the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8, 9, 19 and 20 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 1 – 5, 7, 10 – 15, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ide et al. (U.S. 4,456,840).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable dependant claim 8. Thus, claims 1 – 7 are deemed allowable.

Claim 10 has been amended to recite "A method for reducing input currents associated with a comparator circuit during certain events, comprising the steps of: ... *coupling a blinding timer discharge current source across a capacitor operatively coupled to the comparator signal input and configuring said blinding timer discharge current source to limit current drawn thereby while said capacitor is being charged.*" This method step mimics the equivalent element of allowable apparatus claim 8. Thus, claims 10 – 16 are deemed allowable.

Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of allowable dependant claim 19. Thus, claims 17 and 18 are deemed allowable.

The Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 6 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ide et al..

U.S.S.N. 10/713,138 (DP-309051) - 5

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute the enclosed sheet 1/4, labeled "Replacement Sheet", for the corresponding sheet presently in the case.

Figure 1A, the reference numeral identifying transistor 11 is corrected.

U.S.S.N. 10/713,138 (DP-309051) - 14

As discussed herein above, claim 6 depends from an (as presently amended) allowable independent claim. And is thus, itself deemed allowable.

Likewise, claim 16 depends from an independent claim, which has been amended to adopt the essence of allowable claims.

The Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

New claims 21 – 27 have been submitted herewith. Independent claim 21 corresponds with allowable dependant claim 9, rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 9 has been canceled. New claim 22 corresponds with original claim 2. New claim 23 corresponds with original claim 3. New claim 24 corresponds with original claim 4. New claim 25 corresponds with original claim 5. New claim 26 corresponds with original claim 6. New claim 27 corresponds with original claim 7.

The Applicant respectfully requests that these claims be allowed for the reasons set forth herein above.

CONCLUSION

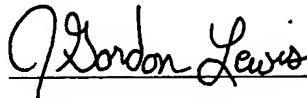
The Applicant submits, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all grounds of rejection have been addressed and overcome, and that all claims presently in the case are in condition for allowance.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the phone number provided.

U.S.S.N. 10/713,138 (DP-309051) - 15

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Gordon Lewis", is written over a horizontal line.

J. Gordon Lewis
Reg. No. 28,735
Delphi Technologies, Inc.
Legal Staff – M/C 480-410-202
P.O. Box 5052
Troy, Michigan 48007-5052
(248) 813-1234

Enclosure